

## **Testimony on S.B. No. 244: An Act Concerning Eligibility to Hold Public Office or Be Employed By The State or Any Municipality**

I am against this Bill and ask each of you to vote NO.

To each member of the Government Administration & Elections Committee, I applaud you for turning your attention to address something as important as eligibility for a public office. However, I implore you to scrap this horrible excuse of a Bill, and focus on eligibility requirements that might be meaningful to the citizens and the future of this State.

For instance, why not consider proficiency in some aspect of finance and/or economics? Perhaps some number of years of experience in both the private **and** public sectors in which a candidate was responsible for a payroll, and/or perhaps responsible for budgets with personal responsibility when they are not met? How about proven leadership experience for anyone that is elevated to a leadership position in the General Assembly – isn't that a novel idea?

Perhaps, a qualification centered on the ability to **think critically**? Or am I asking too much

Bills like this are nothing but nonsense and a waste of time. Please spend what little time you have developing meaningful bills that can lead to beneficial change for all citizens of this state – not just some small handful who happens to be in the majority – for now.

Michael Barton